

*Amendments to the Claims*

Please replace the prior listing of claims with the following listing of claims

Listing of claims:

1 - 20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently amended) A rear parcel shelf for use in a motor vehicle, having a fixing device for its retention and having ~~an, in particular, one piece a~~ storage plate forming the storage surface, whereby the fixing device includes an actuating element envisaged for releasing the retention, ~~in particular a push button,~~

whereby a detent connection, which retains the storage surface, occurs between a detent spring which is connected to a part being secured to the vehicle, and a detent element which is connected to the storage surface,

whereby the actuating element includes a releasing device which is envisaged for releasing the detent connection and,

whereby the releasing device is formed and envisaged for penetrating into and expanding a clearance between the detent spring and the detent element when the detent connection is released,

whereby the releasing device is a component of a push button lower part which belongs to the actuating element and which includes a guide element, which is fixed in a guide contour associated with the storage plate, and

whereby the guide contour has a limiting pin, which engages with a recess of the guide element.

22. (Previously presented) The rear parcel shelf according to Claim 21, having a recessed grip lower part arranged at the lower side of storage plate, which forms, together with the storage plate, a recessed grip, which is accessible when the actuating element is actuated.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) The rear parcel shelf according to Claim ~~23~~ 21

whereby the guide contour has an extension, on which a spring element —~~push button spring~~— is arranged, which, when under tension, abuts a lower side of the ~~push button~~ actuating element ~~in particular which abuts the push button lower part.~~

26. (Currently amended) The rear parcel shelf according to Claim ~~23~~ 21,

whereby the releasing device is designed as a wedge which is slanted at the free end, and whereby the releasing device is situated under the push button perpendicular to a plane defined by the storage plate.

27. (Previously presented) The rear parcel shelf according to Claim 26,

whereby the releasing device is centrally slit at the free end.

28. (Previously presented) The rear parcel shelf according to Claim 21,

whereby the detent spring has a detent cam envisaged for engaging with a recess at the detent element, and whereby the detent element tapers off at the free end in the form of a ramp.

29. (Currently amended) A fixing device for retaining a rear parcel shelf having a storage plate forming a storage surface in a motor vehicle, having an actuating element envisaged for releasing the retention, ~~in particular a push button,~~

whereby the actuating element includes a releasing device which is envisaged for releasing a detent connection which retains the rear parcel shelf,

whereby the detent connection occurs between a detent spring, which is connected to a part being secured to the vehicle, and a detent element which is connected to the storage surface and,

whereby the releasing device is formed and envisaged for penetrating into and expanding a clearance between the detent spring and the detent element when the detent connection is released,

whereby the releasing device is a component of a push button lower part which belongs to the actuating element, and which includes a guide element, which is fixed in a guide contour associated with the storage plate, and

whereby the guide contour has a limiting pin, which engages with a recess of the guide element.

30. (Previously presented) The fixing device according to Claim 29,

having a recessed grip lower part arranged on the lower side of the storage plate, which forms, together with the storage plate, a recessed grip, which is accessible when the actuating element is actuated.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently amended) The fixing device according to Claim ~~31~~ 29

whereby the guide contour has an extension, on which a spring element — ~~push button spring~~ — is arranged, which, when under tension, abuts a lower side of the ~~push button~~, actuating element in particular which abuts the ~~push button lower part~~.

34. (Currently amended) The fixing device according to Claim ~~31~~ 29,

whereby the releasing device is designed as a wedge which is slanted at the free end, and whereby the releasing device is situated under the push button perpendicular to a plane defined by the storage plate.

35. (Previously presented) The fixing device according to Claim 34,

whereby the releasing device is centrally slit at the free end.

36. (Previously presented) The fixing device according to Claim 29,

whereby the detent spring has a detent cam envisaged for engaging with a recess at the detent element, and whereby the detent element tapers off at the free end in the form of a ramp.

37. (Previously presented) A motor vehicle having a rear parcel shelf according to Claim 21.

38. (Previously presented) A motor vehicle having a fixing device according to Claim 29.

39. (Currently amended) The motor vehicle according to Claim 37,

whereby, at a part which is secured to the vehicle, ~~in particular at a receiving element on which the storage plate directly or indirectly rests~~, a microswitch is arranged, which protrudes, with a probe head, through an opening of the receiving element, such that the microswitch is actuated when the storage plate rests on it.

40. (Previously presented) The motor vehicle according to Claim 39,

whereby an electrical signal, based on a switching position of the microswitch, for triggering a display with regard to the correct positioning and/or retention of the storage surface or the storage plate, is envisaged.